



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/073,267	02/13/2002	Simon J. Case	36-1707	6838

7590 05/21/2004

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.  
8th Floor  
1100 North Glebe Road  
Arlington, VA 22201

EXAMINER

RONES, CHARLES

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2175

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/073,267

**Applicant(s)**

CASE ET AL.

**Examiner**

Charles L. Rones

**Art Unit**

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE \_\_\_\_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Preliminary Amendment***

The preliminary amendment timely filed on February 13, 2002 has been entered.

### ***Specification***

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because line 11 contains the words "Figure 3" which should likely be deleted. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by August et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,647,383 ('August').

August discloses:

As to claims 1 and 10,

classification means for classifying a user as a type of entity; See 5:36-44;

a mapping store comprising data indicative of mappings between entity type and interests; See 10:30-43; 13:7-12; 15:50-67;

a template store comprising one or more templates each comprising a plurality of interests; See 5:36-44; 12:44-55; 16:16-24;

identifying means in operative association with the mapping store and the classification means and arranged, in use, to identify data indicative of interests relevant to a user in accordance with classification of the user; See 5:36-44; 12:44-55; 13:52-60;

to retrieve a template from the template store; See 5:36-44; 12:44-55; 16:16-24;  
and

to generate a user profile from the retrieved template in accordance with the identified interests; See 5:36-44; 12:44-55; 16:16-24.

Art Unit: 2175

As to claim 2,

wherein the identifying means is arranged to filter the retrieved template in accordance with the identified interests, thereby generating the said user profile; See 5:36-44; 12:44-55; 16:16-24.

As to claim 3,

wherein the template store has access to a plurality of versions of each interest, each version corresponding to an entity type, and the identifying means is further arranged to filter interests within the retrieved template in dependence on the entity type; See 5:36-44; 12:44-55; 16:16-24.

As to claim 4,

wherein the identifying means is arranged to request a template corresponding to the identified interests, so that the template retrieved in response to the request is the generated user profile; See 5:36-44; 12:44-55; 16:16-24.

As to claim 5,

wherein an interest is characterised by a plurality of sets of subject-related data and/or attributes classifying the interest; See 5:36-44; 12:44-55; 16:16-24.

As to claim 6,

means for characterising an interest for loading onto a template, said characterising means comprising means for retrieving subject-related data from information accessed by one or more users; See 5:36-44; 12:44-55; 16:16-24.

As to claim 7,

means arranged to receive data indicative of relationships between entity types, and to modify interests in the mapping store in dependence on the received data; See 5:36-44; 12:44-55; 16:16-24.

As to claim 8,

wherein the classification means is in operative association with a data structure, elements of which are representative of entity type; See 5:32-56; 15:50-67; 16:1-15.

As to claim 9,

wherein the data structure is representative of an organisation, and entity type is representative of role within the organisation; See 5:32-56; 15:50-67; 16:1-15.

As to claim 11,

for each interest, subject-related terms related to the said interest and subject-related terms un-related to the said interest, second data identifying attributes

Art Unit: 2175

characterising an interest, the second data being used by the information management means to filter information identified as being relevant to the first data; see 13:29-51; 14:12-41.

As to claim 12,

wherein an item of the subject-related data is weighted to indicate a level of relevance of the subject-related data to a respective interest; See 13:30-60.

As to claim 13,

wherein the second data includes data describing the priority of the first data to the user; See 14:44-67.

As to claim 14,

wherein the second data includes data describing duration of relevance of the first data to the user; See 15:1-16.

As to claim 15,

wherein the second data includes data indicative of an expertise level of the user in respect of the first data; See 13:22-50; 14:60-67.

As to claim 16,

wherein the second data includes preference data describing preferences of the user in respect of the first data; See 12:44-67.

As to claim 17,

wherein the preference data identifies at least one of: to whom the first data is relevant; to a place at which the first data is relevant and/or a time at which the first data is relevant; See 15:1-16.

As to claim 18,

wherein the second data includes data indicative of the extent to which the first data should be made available to other users; See 15:1-16; 16:15-35; 17:20-31.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles L. Rones whose telephone number is 703-306-3030. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 703-305-3830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.



Art Unit: 2175

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Charles L. Rones  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2175

May 14, 2004